GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3741
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2000
PROTECTION OF LABOUR
PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether both the ship-breaking units in Gujarat and Diamond cutting industry in Saurashtra are indulging into mal-practices against the labour and violating all human norms;

(b) if so, whether the Government have enquired from Gujarat Maritime Board the present conditions of the contractlabour of the ship-breaking unit in Gujarat and the child labour engaged in diamond cutting trade in Saurashtra; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof and steps taken to regulate the welfare of the labour?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL)

(a) and (b): As per information received from the State Govt. of Gujarat, the Labour Laws are enforced to ensure that workers get benefits provided under various labour laws. The State Govt. has fixed minimum rates of wages in respect of employees employed in the ship-breaking units as well as Diamond Cutting Industries. In addition, thepayment of Bonus Act and the Payment of Gratuity Act are also applicable. The Labour Machinery has been strengthened by creating new posts of one AssistantCommissioner of Labour and Govt. Labour Officer exclusively for the protection of the rights of the workers working in ship-breaking units at Alang, Dist. Bhavnagar. It is also, inter-alia, stated that, there is no Contract Labour system prevailing in Alang Ship Breaking operation.

Govt. of Gujarat is vigilant on the issue of Child Labour. In the diamond cutting industry of Saurashtra, incidence of Child Labouris not generally noticed but where found, action is taken in accordance with the law. Officals of the Department are also keeping a close watch.

(c): Does not arise.